



The Application Process

Please click the highlighted text for link to addition information

Choosing the right university is the chance for your offspring to assert independence. But, as a parent, you will still most likely be looked to for guidance.

At SJR students will cover most of this through their Tutorial Sessions and the Futures Programme at key points throughout the academic year, but if necessary, you can help to ensure that the process runs as smoothly as possible. Here's what you can do:

Research

Encourage and assist your child with gathering all the necessary information that will help the decision making.

- University websites contain a lot of detail, and for those who prefer a paper copy, you can phone, write or email university staff in order to obtain a prospectus.
- Read up about the things you are interested in, even if your child isn't. For example, many universities have information on their websites about the **safety of the university environment**. Don't just assume that big cities are bad; some urban universities are in areas with low crime rates. Some rural universities may provide off-campus accommodation, which could be less accessible especially later in the evening.



Keep Up to Date

Get to know the application process and keep a check that **UCAS deadlines** are met.

Provide your child with any information that is needed to make applications for student funding support.

When your child is communicating with UCAS and universities, ensure they use an appropriate personal email address, and not one linked to their school or college that they may not have access to after leaving.

If your details change, such as your home address, make sure your child's UCAS details are also updated.

But be Careful...

Offering advice is something you will naturally want to do. But proceed with caution: unless you have an in-depth knowledge of the process it may be wise to think carefully before you offer advice. Encouraging independence is key in this transitional phase of your son or daughter's life.

Some of the pitfalls to avoid that parents can fall into:

Basing your advice on your own experience of university. Universities and student life are constantly changing!

Certain courses will always lead to a good job. Are you sure? Have a look at the **Graduate Prospects**.

Certain universities are best for a particular subject. Again, are you sure? See our **League Table** for the facts about quality, something you previously believed may have changed.

Projecting your own desires. You may love being a doctor, but that doesn't mean your child wants to be one also. Students switching courses regularly say that they never wanted to do their initial subject but felt their family expected it.

2021 IMPORTANT DATES

The updated search tool with courses starting in 2021 will be available on UCAS from 5 May 2020.

Please note that UCAS will not accept applications for September 2021 until **8th September 2020**.

For those students wanting to apply to Oxford or Cambridge or to read medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine, their final deadline is **15th October 2020**.

The final deadline for most courses is **15th January 2021**, in order to guarantee that universities will consider the application.

However, as you can see above the process, to make sure an application is as good as it can be does take time so students should be aiming to complete their application by **October half term**. All applications completed by the **9th November** are guaranteed to be sent well before the final deadline. If it is left until the last minute, there will not be enough time to work with a Progress Tutor to make it as good as it could be, so it makes sense to complete it early.

Application fee.

The application fee is £20 if you're applying to just one course, or £25 for multiple courses.

Here's a step-by-step guide to filling in an application - You can also download this short guide to  **filling in a UCAS application** (267.43 KB).

Before starting an application, here are the top things admissions teams will look for when reviewing your application.

- Qualifications.
- Content of written personal statement displaying passion for the subject area, while demonstrating motivation, enthusiasm, and the skills and experiences that will enable you to succeed at university.
- Quality and content of reference.
- Knowledge of and commitment to the subject discipline.
- Good attitude to learning and personal development.
- Ability to articulate yourself fluently and accurately in writing - it is a sign of what's to come for tutors.

Applying through UCAS Conservatoires? Find out **how to fill in a UCAS Conservatoires application**.

We have recorded some videos to help guide students through the process, please click the link below.

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/channel/76e35e7f-ffca-45a5-9b47-e96a2c576360>